

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PFOR EGEN COMECON DA EC

SUBJ: NORDIC COUNCIL RELATIONS WITH COMECON

REF: STOCKHOLM 3835

BEGIN SUMMARY. AT A MEETING IN STOCKHOLM LAST WEEKEND, NORDIC PRIME MINISTERS DISCUSSED COMECON FEELERS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NORDIC COUNCIL/COMECON RELATIONS AND AGREED THAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THAT DIRECTION. FINNS APPEAR TO BE PRINCIPAL ADVOCATES FOR COMECON RELATIONS WHILE DANES, AND PERHAPS OTHERS, FEEL IT IMPORTANT TO MOVE SLOWLY AND, IN ANY EVENT, NO FASTER THAN EC/COMECON RELATIONS DEVELOP. END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH PRESS REPORTED STATEMENT BY FONECONMIN NORGAARD THAT, DURING THE LAST WEEKEND MEETING OF NORDIC COUNCIL IN STOCKHOLM, NORDIC PRIME MINISTERS HAD INFORMAL MEETING WHERE, INTER ALIA, THEY DISCUSSED SOVIET FEELERS ON ESTABLISHING NORDIC COUNCIL/COMECON RELATIONS. NORGAARD WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT PRIME MINISTERS AGREED TO STUDY MATTER AND THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF TRADE INFORMATION.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED PRESS REPORTS WITH DANISH PERMREP ON NORDIC COUNCIL (LARS BLINKENBERG OF FONOFF) WHO, IN FIRST INSTANCE, POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER NORGAARD NOR HE COULD GIVE PRECISE REPORT ON PRIME MIISTERS' MEETING SINCE NEITHER WAS PRESENT AND THESE MEETINGS ARE USUALLY NOT RECORDED. HOWEVER, BLINKENBERG WAS PRESENT AT REYKJAVIK MEETING IN SEPTEMBER BETWEEN NORDIC COUNCIL PERMREPS AND CIVIL SERVANTS OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT WHICH COMECON WAS REPRESENTED BY A SOVIET. (NOTE: THIS IS FRIST EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF THIS MEETING.) AT REYKAVOK MEETING, ACCORDING TO BLINKENBERG, SOVIET, WHO SAID HE WAS TALKING FOR COMECON, EXPRESSED HOPE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN COMECON AND NORDIC INSTITUTIONS.

3. IT WAS THE REYKAJAVIK APPROACH WHICH LED TO PRIME MINISTERS' DISCUSSION IN STOCKHOLM AND BLINKENBERG UNDERSTOOD IT WAS FINNISH PRIME MINISTER WHO RAISED QUESTION. BLINKENBERG THOUGHT IT LIEKLEY THAT THE HEAD OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AT OSLO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A FINN NAMED BERGMAN, WHO HAD ALSO ATTENDED THE REYKJAVIK MEETING, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINNISH PM'S INITIATIVE. BERGMAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FINNISH REP TO COMECON, ACCORDING TO BLIKENBERG, AND HAS MAINTAINED HIS INTEREST IN COMECON RELATIONS. BLINKENBERG THOUGH QUESTION WOULD BE RAISED AGAIN FAIRLY SOON AT NORDIC COUNCIL PERMREP LEVEL, BUT DID NOT EXPECT ANY PRECIPITOUS ACTION. SINCE DENMARK IS MEMBER OF BOTH EC AND NORDIC COUNCIL, HE FELT THAT IT WOULD WANT TO

DISCOURAGE ANY MOVES TOWARD COMECON FASTER THAN THOSE OF EC.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT. WE WERE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FINNS ARE THE ONLY ENTHUSIASTS ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF NORDIC COUNCIL/COMECON RELATIONS. THIS SEEMS NATURAL SINCE, WHILE THEY HAVE COMPANY OF OTHER NORDICS IN RELATIONS WITH EC, THEY ARE SOLE NORDIC HAVING AGREEMENT WITH COMECON AND WOULD LIKE COMPANIONSHIP.
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